



Hillside Monthly Dispatch

Hillside Baptist Church, Pembroke, NH

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Modeling the Truth of God's Word

January 2018

Be True Instruments Of Grace

From the Pastor's Desk

What Do You Want Most?

1 Samuel 2:16-17

Retiring from the foreign mission field, a missionary returned home to the United States to spend the rest of his life with his married daughter and her family in the Midwest. Upon arriving in California he hopped on a bus and headed west stopping overnight in Las Vegas, NV.

The missionary had been away from America for more than thirty years and never visited Las Vegas before, so he checked into his hotel and immediately headed out onto the Vegas strip to see what the city had to offer. Even though it was the middle of the night it felt more like midday, for the lights and activity of the city were vibrant.

All his senses were in overdrive for he heard live music, saw hotels light up, heard money coming out of the slot machines, smelled multitudinous fragrances of food, and even was able to attend a car show. Special events, famous attractions, gambling, and more were all available at a moment's notice to indulge in.

Well eventually the retired missionary made his way back to his hotel after walking what seemed like all day. Upon entering his room he didn't turn on any lights or go to lay down in the bed, instead he quietly walked over to the windows and opened the drapes revealing the skyline of the city. There in the quietness of his room he gazed upon the panoramic view of the city, then got down on his knees and prayed, "God, I thank you that tonight I haven't seen anything I want more than I want you." (Kyle Idleman, "Not A Fan," pp. 136-137, Zondervan, 2011)

What do you want most in life? Do you want a good job? Successful marriage? Cute kids? A good house? Bills paid? Money in the bank? What do you want most?

Humans are created in the image of God, thus we are capable of independent thought, creative reasoning, desire, and want. We have the capability to love, be loved, and have relationships with various individuals who are just as much like us as they are different from us. We have the ability and wherewithal to acquire wealth, reputation, clout, and power.

And when we take all these aspects of our intrinsic nature and meld them with our inherent sin nature, we are torn

Upcoming Events and Meetings

Jan. 1 – Happy New Year!

Praise the Lord for bringing us through 2017!

Jan. 7, 10:45 a.m. – Lord's Supper

Jan. 13, Noon – Right to Life Rally, Concord

Rally is at 11:15 a.m.; March for Life down Main St. at 11:45 a.m.

Weekly:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45 a.m. – Worship Service

between what we should do about what we want to do. We fight what we know is needed versus what we desire most. Thus often, unfortunately, our sin nature wins out and our desires focus on things of the flesh that are merely temporal and fleeting. What can we do about such a dilemma?

One of the most compelling passages that instruct us to reign in our wants is found in the narrative of the sons of Eli the priest who was in charge in Shiloh over the Ark of the Covenant. In 1 Samuel chapter 2, Hophni and Phineas are described as worthless men who did not know the Lord. How sad it is to be a man commissioned by God to be a Priest and to have two sons who were disobedient sinful men against God.

What was their sin? Well their actions were that they were taking the good portion of the sacrifice for themselves that were actually reserved for the Lord. Basically they put themselves first, thus showing they had no regard for God and His glory. Thus they gave into their wants and showed disdain for God.

Scripture records for us their abhorrent behavior in 1 Samuel 2:16-17 and what their practice was when an Israelite went to them to conduct a sacrifice. It states, "If the man said to him, 'They must surely burn the fat first, and then take as much as you desire,' then he (Hophni or Phineas) would say, 'No, but you shall give it to me now; and if not, I will take it

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On the web at <http://www.hillside-sbc.org>

Pastor's Desk (from p. 1)

by force.' Thus the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men despised the offering of the LORD." (NASB)

It is clear from this passage that the two men chose to indulge in their wants instead of honoring God and being instruments of His glory. What was the result? Eventually individuals stopped coming to sacrifice to the Lord because of their violations. How sad is that? These men who were commissioned to be instruments of God grace to others instead lorded over others their position and got in the way of true worship. Their wants interfered in their duty to honor God, for what they wanted most was to satisfy self.

You know that is as true today as it was then. We, as the people of God, are called to pick up our cross daily and follow Jesus. That means we are to crucify our own wants to follow Jesus and if we do not do so, then we get in the way of what we are supposed to do.

If we are to be true instruments of grace leading others to the feet of salvation in Christ, we have to want Him more than anything else in this world. If we are to be His witnesses, then we have to want Him more than reputation, more than temporal ease, more than job security, more than household peace, more than money, and more than life itself.

Let's recognize this truth: those who are lost and do not have Jesus as Savior of their life will have wants and desires that reflect the world and what little it has to offer. But Christians who are saved in Christ ought to have wants and desires that reflect all the glory of heaven and that of Jesus who is Lord in their lives. What we want from life and in life ought to reflect that which Christ wants in us, thus what we ought to want most of all is Him.

My prayer is that you would desire Jesus more than anything else in this world and be able to get on your knees like the retired missionary and say, "God I thank you that tonight I haven't seen anything I want more than I want you."

Happy New Year,

✝ Pastor Jim

Men's Breakfast



The first Men's Breakfast of 2018 takes place on Saturday Jan. 6th at 8:00 a.m. Guys contribute to the meal and there will be plenty of hot coffee to thaw out frozen fingers and toes. It's always a good time of fellowship and of course

some banter about the Patriots.

After breakfast, we'll dig into Romans chapter 8 for our continuing Bible discussion. Come on out and join us.

Property and Space Patrol

Winter salt was purchased earlier this month. Pastor Jim helped unload the two truckloads of 50-pound bags. Sand was obtained from a local dump, and Connor helped shovel it into the sand barrels.

The few storms that were plowed in December used up 13 bags of salt already. The 10-day forecast on New Year's Day showed that the very cold weather will continue for about another week with a few days almost up to 32°.

✝ Pastor Al

Right to Life Rally and March

On January 22, 1973 in a 7-2 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that a right to privacy under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment extended to a woman's decision to have an abortion. Since then, tens of millions of babies have been killed before they were born, and their mothers and fathers have been psychologically scarred.

The Right to Life movement has been working for years to educate people about the tragedy of abortion both for the mother and the child and the need to stop abortion on demand. For more information about the New Hampshire group, go to <http://nhrtl.org/mfl2018/>.

Come to the rally. Dress in layers, wear a warm hat, gloves or mittens, scarf, and the most insulated winter boots you have since it's going to be cold out there. Park near St. John's and walk to the State House. That should warm you up a little. Let's show Concord we care about this issue.

January 13, 2018

- 11:15 a.m. – Rally at the State House, N. Main St., Concord
- 11:45 a.m. – March for Life along Main St. from the Capitol to St. John the Evangelist Church (about 15-20 minutes)
- Midday – Refreshments (coffee and food) at St. John the Evangelist
- 1:00 p.m. – Keynote speaker at St. John the Evangelist. Hear Jennifer Christie's shocking story, "Raped While on a Business Trip – My Husband and I Chose Life!"

It's All a Gift!

The following article about a very unique London cafe; comes from the Our Daily Bread daily devotional booklet and was written by Sheridan Voysey.

London's Café Rendezvous has nice lighting, comfortable couches, and the smell of coffee in the air. What it doesn't have are prices. Originally started as a business by a local church, the café was transformed a year after it started.

The managers felt that God was calling them to do something radical—make everything on the menu free. Today you can order a coffee, cake, or sandwich without cost. There isn't even a donation jar. It's all a gift.

I asked the manager why they were so generous. "We're just trying to treat people the way God treats us," he said. "God gives to us whether we thank him or not. He's generous to us beyond our imaginations."

Jesus died to rescue us from our sins and reconcile us with God. He rose from the grave and is alive now. Because of this, every wrong thing we've done can be forgiven, and we can have new life today (Eph. 2:1-5). And one of the most amazing things about this is that it is all free. We can't buy

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It's a Gift, from p. 2

the new life Jesus offers. We can't even donate toward the cost (vv. 8-9). It's all a gift.

As the folks at Café Rendezvous serve their cakes and coffees, they give people a glimpse of God's generosity. You and I are offered eternal life for free because Jesus has paid the bill.

"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2:8

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Hillside wishes a happy, happy, happy birthday to the following people who are celebrating another orbit around the Sun:

- 1/10 Peter Jenkins
- 1/11 Pastor Jim Robertson
- 1/21 Cynthia Ward
- 1/29 Jaxson (Kanoba & Stephanie)



Hillside also wishes God's blessing on anyone who celebrates a wedding anniversary this month. If that's you, please send us your date so we can

include you in our list.

Prayer Requests

If you need us to pray for a physical, spiritual, financial, marital, or other need, contact Pastor Jim, Pastor Al, or Michael Frascinella and they will get the word out to the membership.

It is our duty and privilege to lift you up in prayer to Jesus Christ our Lord.

Seventeen Years of News

This June will mark a full 17 years of publishing the *Hillside Monthly Dispatch*. That's a passel of years and a saddle bag full of back issues.

It can be better with your help. Pray for some guidance and inspiration, then write something and send it along.

Hillside on the Web

Go to the Hillside web site <http://www.hillside-sbc.org/> for more information about our fellowship, including this newsletter in PDF format.

Submissions for Next Issue

Deadline is Jan. 25. Send news items to News Wrangler and Editor, Michael Frascinella, mfrascinella at comcast dot net.



Hillside Baptist Church is a member of the New Hampshire Baptist Association, part of the Southern Baptist Convention.



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